



SCHOOL-BASED MENTORING

Youth Mentoring

Youth mentoring correlates with positive youth outcomes including greater bonding to school, better attendance and grades, fewer depressive symptoms, greater acceptance by their peers, and more positive beliefs about their ability to succeed in school.* At present, there are more than 92 school-based mentoring initiatives (see map on back). Statewide, The Partnership supports 150 mentoring programs, serving over 20,000 young people.

Call to Action

We invite school superintendents to promote and support student mentoring programs within their districts by linking their students with programs that utilize best practices and evidence-based operational standards as outlined in the Nationally recognized *Elements of Effective Practice for Mentoring*. The Partnership can serve as the liaison and convene meetings with mentoring providers.

The first step is to designate a school mentoring coordinator as the primary contact person to serve as a liaison to The Partnership. The Partnership will assist the coordinator in recruiting mentors, offering trainings, and partnering with other organizations and businesses to promote mentoring.

Expanding School-Based Mentoring 2014/15

To expand or create school-based mentoring and integrate mentoring networks of support services as needed, The Governor's Prevention Partnership will provide the following services:

- Training and assistance to individual schools and/or school systems that want to start a mentoring program. This support includes developing the program goals, identifying and training the program coordinator, implementing systems for identifying and referring students into the program, and other aspects of the program design.
- Linking mentors from businesses, universities/colleges, and organizations (fraternities, faith communities, etc.) to the school-based program. The Partnership serves as the liaison between the sources of the mentors and the schools, and makes recommendations on mentor screening, selection, matching and support.
- Providing advanced training opportunities for mentors. As the field of mentoring evolves, research shows specific strategies and identifies effective tools for working with youth populations including young people in systems of care, homeless youth, LGBTQ youth, immigrant youth and youth who have been challenged by trauma and/or mental health needs. The Partnership draws on expertise from the MENTOR/National Mentoring Partnership network and can provide consultation with school-based coordinators to tailor training—either web-based or in-person—to the setting.
- Introducing school-based mentoring providers to other providers in mentoring hubs where they exist and/or creating mentoring networks to create opportunities for mentor/mentee support that is community specific.

Next Steps

This fall, The Partnership will host a one-day training for school-based coordinators on Design and Build Your School-Based Mentoring Program that will provide the tips, tools and information on launching a school-based mentoring program. Programs can begin as early as January, 2015. Contact Sharon Mierzwa, Program Director, at 860-523-8042, ext. 22 or Sharon.mierzwa@preventionworksct.org to discuss developing a school-based mentoring program and/or linking students to an existing mentoring programs.

*The Role of Risk: Mentoring Experiences and Outcomes for Youth With Varying Risk Profiles. C. Herrera, D. DuBois, J. Grossman. A Public/Private Ventures project, 2013.

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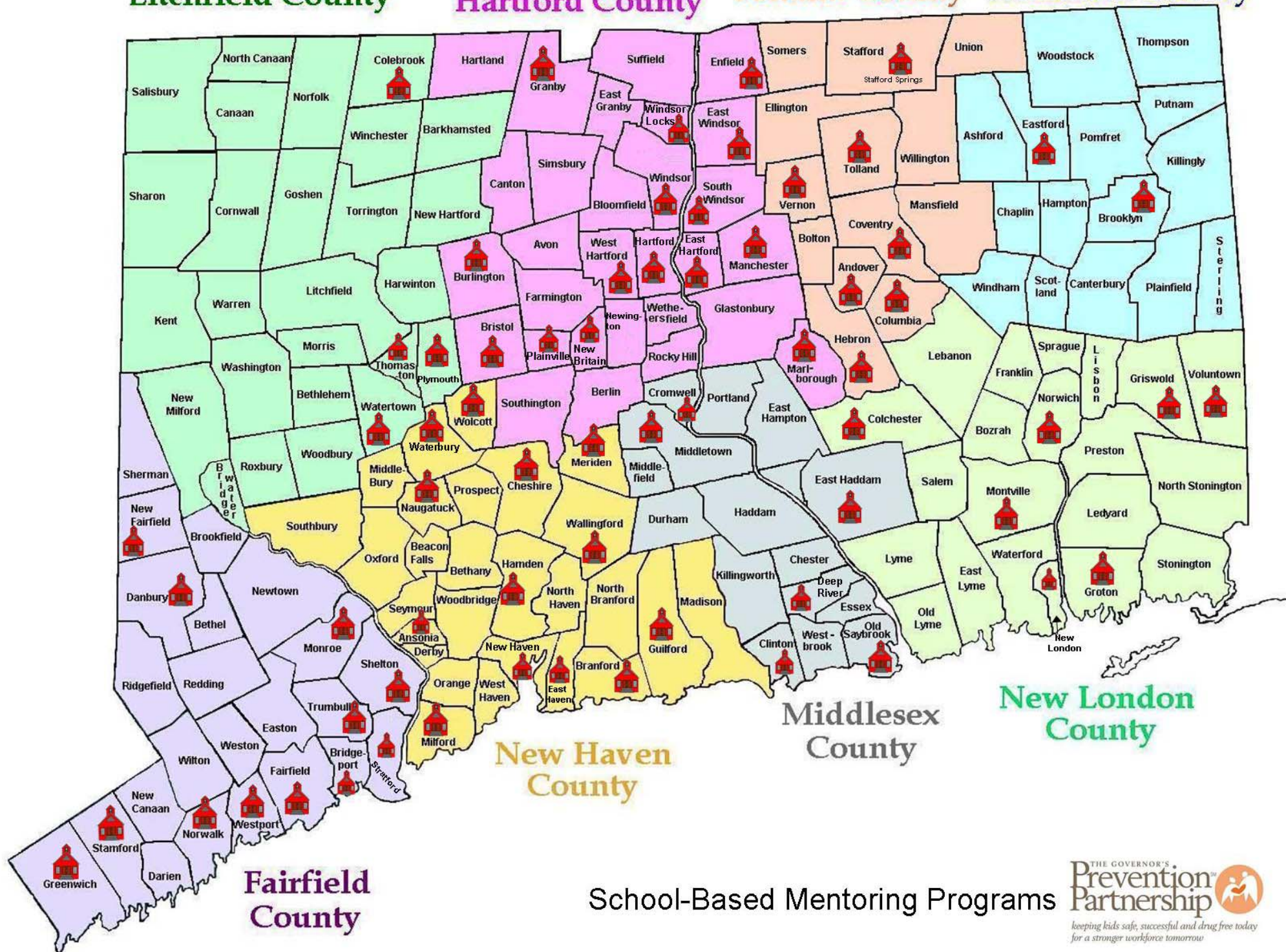
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Litchfield County

Hartford County

Tolland County

Windham County



School-Based Mentoring Programs